



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,356	03/12/2004	Joseph C. Perin	0813798.00062	7946
545	7590	10/17/2008	EXAMINER	
IP Patent Docketing K&L GATES LLP 599 Lexington Avenue 33rd Floor New York, NY 10022-6030			COLLINS, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/17/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/800,356	Applicant(s) PERIN ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL K. COLLINS	Art Unit 3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 16 of **REMARKS**, filed 6/09/2008, with respect to claims 1-57 and 60-78 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-57 and 60-78 has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Wilder (USP 5,408,417).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 17-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over (USP 5,408,417).

Art Unit: 3651

Regarding claim 17, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store which stores a fault threshold representing an operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser,
 - and a fault having two states;
 - a controller (37) in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller switching the fault to a first state in response to detecting the operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser represented by the fault threshold, and producing an alarm (25) in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communication with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller (see column 5 lines 31-38).

Regarding claim 18, Wilder discloses the system of claim 17, wherein the lottery ticket dispenser further includes

- a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip, and
- a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 19, Wilder discloses the system of claim 18, wherein the controller produces an alarm in response to detecting the first state of the fault.

Art Unit: 3651

Regarding claim 20, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a bill acceptor (12) adapted to accept bills,
 - a fault store (38,40,41,50) which stores a fault threshold representing a stored number smaller than a number of bills storable in the bill acceptor, and
 - a fault being switchable to a first state in response to the bill acceptor storing a number of bills at least equal to the stored number, and
 - a controller (37) in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser, the fault store and the bill acceptor, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault;
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communications with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller (see column 5 lines 31-38).

Regarding claim 21, Wilder discloses the system of claim 20, wherein the lottery ticket dispenser further includes a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip, and a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 22, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

Art Unit: 3651

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a cash acceptor (12),
 - a fault store for storing which stores a fault threshold representing a stored value smaller than a desired total cash value to be stored in the cash acceptor, and
 - a fault being switchable to a first state in response to the cash acceptor storing a total cash value at least equal to the stored value; and
- a controller in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser, the fault store and the cash acceptor, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault;
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communications with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 23, Wilder discloses the system of claim 22, wherein the lottery ticket dispenser further includes a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip, and a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 24, Wilder discloses the system of claim 22, further comprising: a printer (24) in electrical communications with the controller.

Regarding claim 25, Wilder discloses the system of claim 22, wherein the controller produces an alarm in response to detecting the first state of the fault.

Art Unit: 3651

Regarding claim 26, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store which stores (38,40,41,50) first and second fault thresholds representing respective first and second numbers smaller than a number of lottery tickets dispensable by first and second lottery ticket dispensers, respectively, and
 - first and second faults being switchable to a first state in response to the first and second lottery ticket dispensers dispensing a number of lottery tickets at least equal to the first and second numbers, respectively, and
 - a controller (37) in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of both of the first and second fault states; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communications with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller (see column 5 lines 31-38).

Regarding claim 27, Wilder discloses the system of claim 26, wherein the lottery ticket dispenser further includes:

- A storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip; and

Art Unit: 3651

- a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 28, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 26, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to either the first and second faults being switched to their respective first and second fault states.

Regarding claim 29, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 26, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to both the first and second faults being switched to their respective first and second fault states.

Regarding claim 30, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 29, wherein the controller does not produce the alarm in response to only the first or only the second fault being switched to their respective first and second fault states.

Regarding claim 31, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores a plurality of fault thresholds, each fault threshold representing a first number smaller than a maximum number of lottery tickets dispensable by a respective lottery ticket dispenser, and
 - a plurality of faults, each fault being switchable to a respective first state in response to a respective lottery ticket dispenser dispensing a number of lottery tickets at least equal to the first number, and

Art Unit: 3651

- a controller (37) in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting a predetermined number of the faults being switched to deteriorated states; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communications with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 32, Wilder discloses the system of claim 31, wherein the lottery dispenser further includes a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip, and

- a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 33, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 31, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to the predetermined number of the faults being switched to their respective first states.

Regarding claim 34, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store which stores a fault threshold and a fault; and
- a controller which independently operates the lottery ticket dispenser and providing data relating to lottery tickets dispensed by the lottery ticket dispenser,

Art Unit: 3651

the controller being in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, and the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting a change of state of the fault;

- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in electrical communications with, and receiving the alarm and the data relating to lottery tickets dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensers from the controller; and
- another computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations and the host computer, the other computer in electrical communications with the host computer for receiving data relating to lottery tickets dispensed at one of the retail locations.

Regarding claim 35, Wilder discloses the system of claim 34, wherein the lottery ticket dispenser further includes

- a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip; and
- a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 36, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 34, wherein the controller produces an alarm in response to detecting a deterioration of the fault.

Regarding claim 37, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 34, further comprising:

a fault store for storing a fault threshold representing an operating state of the lottery

Art Unit: 3651

ticket dispenser, and a fault having two states.

Regarding claim 38, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 34, wherein the controller switches the fault to a first state in response to detecting the operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser represented by the fault threshold, and produces the alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault.

Regarding claim 39, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores a fault threshold representing an operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser,
 - and a fault having at least two states;
- a controller (37) in communication with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller switching the fault to a first state in response to detecting the operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser represented by the fault threshold, and producing an alarm in response to detecting a deterioration of the fault; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 40, Wilder discloses the system of claim 39 wherein the lottery dispenser further includes

- a storage unit storing instant win lottery tickets in a continuous strip, and

Art Unit: 3651

- a separator for separating an instant win lottery ticket from the continuous strip in response-to a player request to purchase an instant win lottery ticket.

Regarding claim 41, Wilder discloses the system of claim 39, wherein the alarm is received by the host from the controller in real time.

Regarding claim 42, Wilder discloses the system of claim 39, wherein the alarm is received by the host from the controller in real time in batches transmitted at regular intervals.

Regarding claim 43, Wilder discloses the system of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is daily.

Regarding claim 44, Wilder discloses the system of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is once a shift.

Regarding claim 45, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 39, further comprising:

an alarm produced by the controller in response to detecting the first state of the fault.

Regarding claim 46, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a bill acceptor (12) adapted to accept bills,
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores a fault threshold representing a stored number smaller than a number of bills storable in the bill acceptor, and

- a fault being switchable to a first state in response to the bill acceptor storing a number of bills at least equal to the stored number, and
- a controller (37) in electrical communications with the lottery ticket dispenser, the fault store and the bill acceptor, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault;
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 47, Wilder discloses the system of claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of lottery ticket dispensers has a respective controller, each lottery ticket dispenser and its respective controller colocated in a single cabinet.

Regarding claim 48, Wilder discloses the system of claim 46, wherein more than one of the plurality of lottery ticket dispenser shares a common controller.

Regarding claim 49, Wilder discloses the system of claim 48, wherein the common controller is co-located in a common cabinet with an at least one of the more than one of the plurality of lottery ticket dispensers.

Regarding claim 50, Wilder discloses the system of claim 49, wherein a second at least one of the more than one of the plurality of lottery ticket dispensers is not located in the common cabinet.

Regarding claim 51, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

Art Unit: 3651

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a cash acceptor (12),
 - a fault store (38,50) for storing which stores a fault threshold representing a stored value smaller than a desired total cash value to be stored in the cash acceptor, and
 - a fault being switchable to a first state in response to the cash acceptor storing a total cash value at least equal to the stored value; and
- a controller (37) in communication with the lottery ticket dispenser, the fault store and the cash acceptor, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault;
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 52, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 51, further comprising: a printer in electrical communications with the controller.

Regarding claim 53, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 51, wherein the controller produces an alarm in response to detecting the first state of the fault.

Regarding claim 54, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system comprising:

Art Unit: 3651

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores first and second fault thresholds representing respective first and second numbers smaller than a number of lottery tickets dispensable by first and second lottery ticket dispensers respectively, and
 - first and second faults being switchable to a first state in response to the first and second lottery ticket dispensers dispensing a number of lottery tickets at least equal to the first and second numbers, respectively, and
 - a controller (37) in communication with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of both of the first and second fault states; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 55, Wilder discloses the system of claim 54, wherein the first and second lottery ticket dispensers are located at the same geographic location.

Regarding claim 56, Wilder discloses the system of claim 55, wherein the first and second lottery ticket dispensers are located in a common cabinet.

Regarding claim 57, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 54, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to the first and second faults being switched to their respective first and second fault states.

Art Unit: 3651

Regarding claim 58, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores a plurality of fault thresholds, each fault threshold representing a first number smaller than a maximum number of lottery tickets dispensable by a respective lottery ticket dispenser, and
 - a plurality of faults, each fault being switchable to a respective first state in response to a respective lottery ticket dispenser dispensing a number of lottery tickets at least equal to the first number, and
 - a controller (37) in communication with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting a predetermined number of the faults being switched to deteriorated states; and
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication with, and receiving the alarm from, the controller.

Regarding claim 59, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 58, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to the predetermined number of the faults being switched to their respective first states.

Regarding claim 60, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system, comprising:

Art Unit: 3651

- a plurality of lottery ticket dispensers (10) located at different retail locations, each of the lottery ticket dispensers comprising
 - a fault store (38,50) which stores a fault threshold and a fault, and
 - a controller (37) which independently operates the lottery ticket dispenser and provides data relating to lottery tickets dispensed by the lottery ticket dispenser, the controller being in communication with the lottery ticket dispenser and the fault store, and the controller producing an alarm in response to detecting a change of state of the fault;
- a host computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations, the host computer being in communication with, and receiving the alarm and the data relating to lottery tickets dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensers from the controller; and
- another computer located geographically remotely from the retail locations and the host computer, the other computer in electrical communications with the host computer for receiving data relating to lottery tickets dispensed at one of the retail locations.

Regarding claim 61, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of 60, wherein the controller produces an alarm in response to detecting a deterioration of the fault.

Regarding claim 62, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 60, further comprising:

a fault store for storing a fault threshold representing an operating state of the lottery

Art Unit: 3651

ticket dispenser, and a fault having two states.

Regarding claim 63, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 62, wherein the controller switches the fault to a first state in response to detecting the operating state of the lottery ticket dispenser represented by the fault threshold, and produces the alarm in response to detecting only a deterioration of the fault.

Regarding claim 64, Wilder discloses the lottery ticket dispensing system of claim 63, wherein the controller produces the alarm in response to detecting the first state of the fault.

Regarding claim 65, Wilder discloses an instant lottery ticket vending machine comprising:

- a controller (37);
- a customer input device (11);
- at least one storage unit (10,23) containing instant lottery tickets;
- an instant lottery ticket dispenser (10) in communication with the controller, the controller independently controlling the instant lottery ticket dispenser to dispense an instant lottery ticket from the at least one storage unit in response to a customer request to purchase an instant lottery ticket received by the customer input device; and
- an alarm (25) produced by the controller in response to the deterioration of a state of the instant lottery ticket vending machine.

Regarding claim 66, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 65, wherein the instant ticket dispenser includes a lottery ticket separator in

Art Unit: 3651

communication with the controller, the lottery ticket separator receiving from the at least one storage unit an instant lottery ticket joined to a continuous strip of instant lottery tickets and separating the lottery ticket from the continuous strip of instant lottery tickets.

Regarding claim 67, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 65, wherein the deterioration of the state of the instant lottery ticket vending machine occurs when the number of instant lottery tickets stored in the at least one storage unit is less than a predetermined threshold.

Regarding claim 68, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 67, wherein the predetermined threshold is greater than one and less than the maximum number of instant lottery tickets which can be stored in the at least one storage unit.

Regarding claim 69, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 65, further comprising a network interface in communication with the controller, the controller transmitting the alarm via the network interface.

Regarding claim 70, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 65, further comprising:

- a cash acceptor (12) in communication with the controller, and
- wherein the deterioration of the state of the instant lottery ticket vending machine occurs when the total value of cash stored by the cash acceptor exceeds a predetermined threshold.

Regarding claim 71, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 70, wherein the predetermined threshold is less than the maximum amount of

Art Unit: 3651

cash which can be stored in the cash acceptor.

Regarding claim 72, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 65, further comprising:

- a bill acceptor (12) in communication with the controller, and
- wherein the deterioration of the state of the instant ticket vending machine occurs when the number of bills accepted by the bill acceptor exceeds a predetermined threshold.

Regarding claim 73, Wilder discloses the instant lottery ticket vending machine of claim 72, wherein the predetermined threshold is less than the maximum number of bills which can be stored in the bill acceptor.

Regarding claim 74, Wilder discloses a lottery ticket dispensing system for dispensing instant win lottery tickets, comprising:

- a lottery ticket vending machine (10) including
 - a controller (37), and
 - at least one storage unit (23) containing instant win lottery tickets; and
- a host computer located at a different geographic location than the lottery ticket vending machine, the host computer in communication with the controller, the controller sending a fault message towards the host computer when a fault occurs in the lottery ticket vending machine.

Regarding claim 75, Wilder discloses the system of claim 74, further comprising: a separator unit to separate an instant win lottery ticket from a continuous strip of instant win lottery tickets stored in the at least one storage unit.

Art Unit: 3651

Regarding claim 76, Wilder discloses the system of claim 74, wherein the fault is having fewer than a predetermined number of lottery tickets stored in the at least one storage unit.

Regarding claim 77, Wilder discloses the system of claim 74, further comprising: a cash acceptor, the cash acceptor in communication with the controller, and wherein the fault is having more than a predetermined value of cash in the cash acceptor.

Regarding claim 78, Wilder discloses the system of claim 74, further comprising: a bill acceptor (12), the bill acceptor in communication with the controller, and wherein the fault is having more than a predetermined number of bills in the bill acceptor.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL K. COLLINS whose telephone number is (571)272-8970. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3651

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.K.C.
10/14/2008

/Gene Crawford/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3651